ALSAGER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

District

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1971

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - L. RICH, M.B.,ChB.,M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - A. JAMIESON, M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I.

DEPUTY SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - J.B. MELLOR, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the Alsager Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1971.

The population of the Town continues to rise and it is now estimated to stand at 10,650. The number of births is approximately the same but there has been a considerable fall in the number of deaths. This may be due to the fact that the average age of the population is falling.

The Council has been mindful of the increase in population in the very considerable re-organisation which has taken place in the refuse collection and disposal services and I am pleased to note the remarks made on this subject by Mr. Jamieson indicating the high efficiency of the refuse service. It is also regrettable that due to factors well beyond his control the completion of the sewage disposal works is delayed and giving rise to anxiety.

As far as the Clinic services are concerned it will be noticed that there is increasing activity which is once again a reflection of the population rise. Apart from a considerable number of cases of measles there has been no undue incidence of infectious disease. I have pointed out in previous reports that measles is one of the diseases that can be entirely eliminated if every mother would take advantage of the immunisations available either at the Clinic or from their own Doctor. It was noted too that a high number of these cases are occurring in school children particularly at first entry which is very unfortunate.

I must now once again refer to the problem of smoking and health. Premature deaths and disabling illness caused by cigarette smoking have nationally now reached epidemic proportions.

The association between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung was first worked out statistically in 1951 by Bradford Hill and Doll. Following this report extensive investigation was undertaken by Clinicians and in 1962 the Royal College of Physicians of London issued their first report.

This fully confirmed the previous statistical findings and in

addition it became evident that heavy cigarette smoking increased seriously the incidence of other diseases. It should be borne in mind that the following incontrovertible facts lend massive support to the argument against heavy cigarette smoking :

1) 20,000 deaths of men between the ages of 35 and 64 are caused by cigarette smoking, mainly due to cancer of the lung and coronary thrombosis.

2) 2 out of every 5 heavy cigarette smokers die before 65, as compared with 1 out of 5 non-smokers.

3) At the age 35 an average cigarette smoker (15 to 20 cigarettes a day) is likely to lose on an average $5\frac{1}{2}$ years of his life.

4) Those who discontinue smoking run steadily diminishing risks and after 10 years reach the same state of risk as a non-smoker.

5) Cigarette smokers are much less likely to enjoy retirement.

It is interesting to note that since the first reports of the dangers of smoking were received by the medical profession, Doctors themselves have generally given up cigarette smoking and it is now very clear that the incidence of cancer of the lung in Doctors has decreased very considerably.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Mr. Robert Heap who retired from the position of Clerk to the Council before this report was printed. He was always most helpful and a colleague with whom it was an honour and pleasure to work. I am sure his successor, Mr. Wright, will gain enormously from the standards laid down by Mr. Heap.

I should also like to thank both Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Mellor once again for their assistance to me and for their help in the preparation of this Report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

(The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1970)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population . . . 10,650 (10,490)

Births		Total		Male		Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	135	(135)	66	(70)	67	(65)
	Illegitimate	8	(6)	4	(1)	4	(5)
Still Births	Legitimate	2	(2)	1	(1)	1	(1)
	Illegitimate	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	(-)

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1971 11.1 (11.2)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population 16.0 (16.0)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 14 (21)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still) births 12 (13)
Still birth rate per 1,000 population 0.2 (0.2)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :-

	Total		Male		Female	
Legitimate	-	(5)	-	(3)	-	(2)
Illegitimate	1	(1)	1	(-)	-	(1)

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births 7 (43)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales 18 (18)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - (37)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 125 (167)

Deaths

	Total		Male		Female	
Deaths (all ages)	65	(98)	38	(57)	27	(41)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 8.8 (9.3)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population 11.6 (11.7)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :-

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Cholera	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery and Amoebiasis	-	-	-
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	-	-
Late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	-
Other tuberculosis	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Typhus and other rickettsioses	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Syphilis and it's sequelae	-	-	-
All other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasms, other	9	2	7
Malignant neoplasm of buccal cavity & pharynx	6	5	1
" " of oesophagus	-	-	-
" " of intestine	1	1	-
" " of larynx	-	-	-
" " of prostate	-	-	-
Leukaemia	-	-	-
Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	-	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-
Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	-	-	-
Anaemias	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Multiple Sclerosis	-	-	-
Active rheumatic fever	-	-	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	-	-
Hypertensive disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	12	7	5
Other forms of heart disease	5	3	2
Cerebrovascular disease	15	9	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1	2
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	-
Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of liver	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Abortion	-	-	-
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	-	-	-
Congential anomalies	-	-	-
Birth injury, difficult labour and other ranoxic and hypoxic conditions	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	2	-
All other disease	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	-
All other accidents	2	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1	-
All other external causes	2	2	-
Total	65	38	27

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :-

	No. of deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	0	(0)

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors	-	Miss H.M. Furness,	Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South, Alsager. Tel: Alsager 3215
	-	Mrs. B.M. Doorbar,	Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South, Alsager. Tel: Alsager 3215
	-	Mrs. C.M. Beeson	Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South, Alsager. Tel: Alsager 3215

Meals on Wheels

This service enables the W.R.V.S. to keep a wonderful contact between themselves and the recipients.

The drivers and aides, who work to a rota do many little kindnesses and give help when it is needed.

From January to the end of December 3,098 meals were delivered.

Statistics

	Attendances										
	Born 1971		Born 1970		Born 1969/67		Total	No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor	Average attendance per Clinic
	1st.	Subs.	1st.	Subs.	1st.	Subs.					
Child Health Clinic	220 (157)	1131 (1194)	102 (173)	1249 (1269)	63 (119)	511 (381)	3276 (3293)	51 (51)	403 (402)	7.9 (7.9)	64.2 (64.6)

Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	45 (23)	63 (67)	13 (13)	4.8 (5.1)
	New Cases	Re-examination	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
E.N.T.	4 (22)	15 (33)	10 (10)	1.5 (5.5)

Special Clinic for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	32 (47)	120 (168)	13 (13)	9.2 (12.92)
E.N.T.	23 (37)	81 (97)	10 (10)	8.1 (9.7)

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held
Preparation Class	138 (72)	632 (494)	50 (51)

Welfare Foods Sold - 1971

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice	A.D.C. Drops
Welfare Centre	36 (381)	- (-)	295 (359)	90 (191)	5743 (5974)	200 (-)
Lawton Road (W.R.V.S.)	28 (19)	- (-)	36 (7)	10 (33)	439 (477)	97 (-)

I would like to thank the voluntary workers who give us such valuable assistance in the Clinic.

Midwifery

Midwife - Mrs. E.L. Pedley,
6 Audley Road,
Alsager.
Tel: Alsager 2583

Once again it is particularly satisfactory to report that a full years work has been achieved without any maternal death.

I would also draw attention to the continued popularity of the Preparation Classes.

Births 1971

Hospital		Home		Private N. Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
141 (131)	2 (3)	2 (8)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Home Nursing

The District Nurses for Alsager are - Mrs. A.M. Skellam,
28 Birch Avenue, Alsager.
Tel: Alsager 2582

- Mrs. B.D. Mann (Part-time)
43 Clowes Avenue, Alsager.
Tel: Alsager 2089

The Home Nurses work under the direction of the family doctor and look after patients in their own homes. Because of this many cases who otherwise would have been admitted to hospital are dealt with at home. This work helps considerably in reducing the strain on the hospitals. Once again it is with pleasure that I have to report that no single complaint was received during the year.

Completed primary courses in persons under age 16
(South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total	
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967-64		At Clinics	By G.P.s
Quadruple	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Triple (D/W.C./T)	36 (18)	761 (630)	336 (290)	13 (18)	1 (11)	10 (3)	401 (267)	756 (709)
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Diphtheria/Tetanus	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (2)	8 (–)	– (–)	8 (2)
Diphtheria	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Whooping Cough	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Tetanus	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	1 (3)	– (–)	1 (3)
Polio-Salk	– (–)	8 (–)	1 (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	6 (–)	3 (–)
Polio-Sabin	37 (18)	750 (614)	335 (289)	13 (20)	1 (22)	5 (20)	394 (282)	747 (701)
Measles	1 (1)	466 (243)	467 (498)	121 (161)	50 (143)	17 (49)	411 (294)	711 (801)
German Measles	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	415 (547)	361 (496)	54 (51)

Reinforcing Doses - Persons under age 16
(South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total	
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964-67		At Clinics	By G.P.s
Quadruple	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Triple (D/W.C./T)	– (–)	3 (3)	12 (50)	4 (18)	– (216)	30 (8)	26 (34)	23 (261)
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Diphtheria/Tetanus	– (–)	– (–)	2 (5)	3 (1)	572 (617)	105 (51)	331 (245)	351 (429)
Diphtheria	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Whooping Cough	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Tetanus	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (63)	692 (131)	504 (4)	188 (190)
Polio-Salk	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)
Polio-Sabin	– (–)	– (4)	– (53)	– (23)	90 (878)	691 (60)	655 (284)	126 (734)

Ambulance Service

I am well satisfied with the general turn-out and maintenance of the ambulance.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1971

Disease	Age Distribution									Total	Cases admtd. to Hospital
	Under	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+		
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	3
Measles	-	12	9	7	7	47	2	-	1	85	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1971 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1962.

Notifications - 1962 to 1971

	1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25											1									
25-35										1										
35-45											1									
45-55																	1			
55-65																				
65 and over																			1	
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25					1															
25-35			1																	
35-45					1	1													1	
45-55					1															
55-65						1														
65 and over																				
TOTAL	-	-	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-

Deaths 1962 to 1971

	1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35																				
35-45																				
45-55																				
55-65					1															
65 and over	1																			
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35																				
35-45																				
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 and over																				
TOTAL	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December 1971, were as follows :-

	Up to 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	3	1	11
Female Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4
Male Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-		1	1	1	-	-	5
Female Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3

Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Mid Cheshire Water Board, both quantity and quality are good.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Due to the main Contractor, Thomas Beighton Ltd., going into voluntary liquidation during May, 1971 the new Sewage Disposal Works at Day Green is still not completed.

The Authority in an effort to expedite completion of the works accepted a negotiated price by their Consultants with a new Contractor, but even although this has been expeditiously carried out it nevertheless caused almost a 12 month delay in completion, and it is now anticipated

that the new works will come into operation at the end of June 1972.

Unfortunately, this is p ing the Authority in a very invidious position insofar that due to Planning Permission given in outline for certain areas of land to be developed, continuous building has taken place aggravating the already serious overloading of the two existing works at Longview and Hassall Road.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A further 76 houses were erected and occupied during the year but due to the success of the work study investigation on refuse collection we have now achieved a 5 day collection.

This is a vast improvement and is of great service to the residents as now they are aware that their refuse will be collected on the same day, same hour and almost to the same minute each week.

This has been accomplished by :

i. re-routing.
ii. taking away one employee.
iii. cancellation of all overtime.

The scheme has been in operation since November, 1971 and the Council, employees and residents are delighted with the new improved service. Together with this improvement there has also been a saving in costs which absorbed the wage increase and over the 21 weeks it has been in operation has saved an additional £152.00.

In respect of disposal of refuse, as reported last year the Tollemache Pulverisation Hammer Mill is in operation, and as we have now accumulated sufficient matured pulverised refuse for covering purposes, instructions have been given to the Manager that in future the recommendations of the working party who reported on refuse disposal in 1970 will be carried out by this Authority.

Together with our own refuse we are now treating refuse from Sandbach Urban District Council and a section of Congleton Rural District Council's area, and the agreement seems to be working satisfactorily.

Food and Drugs

During this period 173 visits have been made to food premises and there appears to be a reasonable standard of food hygiene observed by the Traders.

During this year 1105 lbs of various foods have been condemned.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Complete inspections have been carried out of all premises to which the above Act requires viz :-

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	--	14	6
Retail Shops	4	55	12
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	--	--	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	--	1	1
Fuel Storage Depots	--	--	-
TOTALS	4	70	19

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspector to Registered Premises under the Act,

Housing

By the 31st December 1971 there were only 76 houses in the district which did not possess the standard amenities. As in previous years I must again state how unfortunate it is that the vast majority of owner/occupiers of these houses are retired persons on fixed incomes who are unable to have the standard amenities due to lack of finance.

It is very much regretted that this should be the cause, and it is hoped that in future legislation by the Government will be forthcoming, enabling Local Authorities to carry out improvements and make a charge on the property.

Four applications for Standard Grant and nine for Discretionary were received during this year, and the amount paid for completed improvements was £4,408. These grants provided for the under-mentioned amenities :

A)	Fixed Bath	9
B)	Wash Hand Basin	9
C)	Hot water supply and fittings	10
D)	Water Closet	10
E)	Sink	8

Together with the above, the Authority and Landlords of property are continuing their policy of improvement to pre-war houses and to

date 48 flats out of 142 hav been completed and negotiations are now proceeding to make a contract to enable the remaining flats to be improved and 30 pre-war houses are in the process of being modernised - tenders are due to be accepted in early 1972 for the remaining 236.

Work is also in progress in preparing plans for the eventual improvement of a further 14 pre-war dwellings. Also, a pilot scheme of installing gas central heating is being carried out to 34 old people's dwellings.

Slaughterhouse Act

There is one private slaughterhouse in the district.

Carcases and offals inspected and condemned in whole or in part are set out below :

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Animals slaughtered and inspected	337	-	1	1612	473
Condemnations					
1) All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	63	1	-	145	85
2) Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows
a. Localised	2	-
b. Generalised	-	-
	2	-

Diseases	Weight - lbs.			
	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	12
Parasites and Cysts	324	-	169	115
Angioma	-	-	-	-
Dropsy	10	-	-	-
Emaciation	-	-	-	-
Traimation	-	-	-	-
Inflamation	-	-	-	-
Moribund	-	-	-	-
Immaturity	-	-	-	-
Actinomycosis	22	-	-	-
Pericarditis	-	-	-	15
Peritonitis	-	-	-	-
Pleurisy	-	-	1	5
Pneumonia	-	-	-	10
Septicaemia	-	-	-	-
Manmitis	-	-	-	-
Tumours	-	-	-	-
Fever	-	-	-	-
Decomposition	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	88	-	2	12
Abscesses	288	-	2	-
TOTALS	732	-	174	199